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COMMON SHIPYARD INFORMATION SYSTEM AND DATA PROCESSING PROBLEMS
Special Interest Group Meeting Report

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Mr. Spanninga is currently responsible for directing the design, development, implementation and support of information systems at NASSCO.

He has a degree in industrial management and an MBA from Michigan State University. The majority of his 13 years background in information systems and data processing was spent in dealing with manufacturing systems. He has had primary responsibility for design development and implementation of a variety of systems, including bill of material, inventory control, product costing, service parts, payroll, labor distribution and manufacturing planning systems.

REAPS SYMPOSIUM - SAN DIEGO, SEPTEMBER 12, 1979

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING REPORT:

Common Shipyard Information System and Data Processing Problems

D. Spanninga

Over 40 people attended the discussion group titled "Information Systems and Data Processing Problems." There were seven shipyards represented as well as several areas within the Navy and a few other organizations. The yards represented ranged from small organizations with only about 30 people in data processing to very large organizations with over 200 people in data processing and a budget greater than \$20 million per year for data processing services.

Six out of the seven yards represented stated that they had two or more IBM systems in their data processing organizations. Other systems mentioned were a Univac, a Honeywell and some mini-systems for unique applications.

The major topics discussed were justification of projects, setting of project priorities, and user involvement in the design, development, justification, and setting of priorities for projects. All of the shipyard representatives commenting on these topics were in agreement that the user organizations must be involved in all phases of system development. Most seem to agree that the user must be the one to justify and prioritize the projects and that the analysts must work closely with the users through each step of the design and development of a project, even to the point of getting the user to approve each step through a formal sign-off procedure.

The General Dynamics Electric Boat representative discussed their management mechanism for budgeting the data processing dollars. He explained that within the EB user community they had developed what is called system's management. That is, they have assigned high level management people in the user areas as system managers to allocate the data processing manhours and processing costs for his assigned area of responsibility.

A question asked the representatives was "what was the major thrust or direction of the Information Systems resources in the next year or two?" Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) was a consistent response, though varying degrees of both sophistication and direction existed. There were some responses also in the area of manufacturing control and planning systems.

No major conclusions were drawn other than that more communications between the Information Systems and Data Processing function of the various organizations represented was considered desirable. It was suggested that the REAPS organization be used as a vehicle to support additional communications, and that further meetings be held in conjunction with the annual symposium, and separate meetings under REAPS auspices.

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